

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

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TAGS: PFOR, EG, JO, XF

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN-EGYPTIAN DISCUSSIONS

1. SUMMARY: OFFICIAL JORDANIAN PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS FOLLOWING KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO EGYPT REVEAL JORDANIAN-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT TO SEPARATE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA CONFERENCE. HOWEVER JORDANIANS INDICATED TALKS DID NOT TOUCH ON QUESTION OF RECOGNIZING PLO AS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

2. OFFICIAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED FOLLOWING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIGNIFICANT POINTS:

A. TALKS FULLY REVIEWED CURRENT ARAB POSITION AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MIDEAST. TALKS ALSO TOUCHED BON BILATERAL RELATIONS AND VARIOUS ASPECTS OF COOPERATION.

B. "THE TALKS INCLUDED NOT ONLY THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THE RIGHT OF THAT NATION TO DECIDE ITS FUTURE AND TO DEFEND ITS CASE IN ALL INTERNATIONAL FOUOMS BUT ALSO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN AN INDEPENDENT CAPACITY."

C. "AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO CONTINUE THE CONTACTS AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. BOTH PARTIES AGREED ON THE NECESSITY OF SAFEGUARDING THE UNITY OF THE ARAB STAND AND THE UNITY OF THE ARAB COMMITMENT, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO THE COMING PERIOD, INORDER TO IMPLEMENT AND FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE U.N. RESOLUTIONS PERTAINING TO THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION."

3. IN SEPARATE INTERVIEW PUBLISHED BY JORDANIAN PRESS, PRIME MINISTER RIFAI MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS.

A. "IN ANSWER TO QUERY CONCERNING JORDAN'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO ATTENDANCE OF INDEPENDENT JORDANIAN DELEGATION AT GENEVA CONFERENCE, PRIMIN RIFAI SAID: JORDAN HAS AGREED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING TO THE ATTENDANCE OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN DELEGATION AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN THE EVENT SUCH A DELEGATION IS INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE BY THE CONFEREES; THIS IS JORDAN'S POSITION AND IT HAS UNDERGONE NO ALTERATION. JORDAN'S VIEW VIS-A-VIS THE ATTENDANCE OF SUCH A DELEGATION AT GENEVA IS ON THE BASIS OF ITS DISCUSSING THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, WHICH EXCEEDS AND TRANSCENDS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A STATE HAVING LAND UNDER OCCUPATION."

B. CONCERNING REPORTS CIRCULATED BY INFORMATION MEDIA ABOUT THE INTENTION OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND RECOGNITION TO THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: "JORDAN HAS EXTENDED RECOGNITION TO THE P.L.O. SINCE ITS VERY BEGINNING AND THIS RECOGNITION IS STILL IN EFFECT. AS TO THE QUESTION OF GRANTING THE PLO THE CAPACITY OF 'THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE', THE ALEXANDRIA TALKS DID NOT GO INTO SUCH DETAILS."

C. THE PRIME MINISTER INDICATED JORDANIAN-EGYPTIAN CONTACTS AND EXCHANGES OF VIEW WILL CONTINUE AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT FORTHCOMING MEETING BETWEEN PRES. SADAT AND KING HUSSEIN WILL TAKE PLACE IN AMMAN.

3. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT, HUSSEIN-SADAT DISCUSSIONS FELL SHORT OF ADVANCE BILLING IN JORDAN THAT HISTORIC DECISIONS WOULD BE REACHED. WHILE JORDAN HAS NOW FORMALLY AGREED NOT TO OBJECT TO SEPARATE PALESTINIAN DELEGATION AT GENEVA CONFERENCE, JORDANIANS CLEARLY DID NOT RELINQUISH ANY NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY TO PLO VIS-S-VIS WEST BANK. JORDANIAN POSITION ACCORDING TO INTERVIEW WITH KING HUSSEIN IN YESTERDAY'S AL AHRAM, AS REPORTED HERE, APPEARS TO BE THAT JORDAN RESPONSIBLE UNDER RES. 242 FOR REGARDING TERRITORY LOST IN 1967 WAR ---FOLLOWING WHICH PALESTINIANS CAN DETERMINE THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE--AND THAT PLO MEANWHILE HAS ROLE IN DEFENDING UNDEFINED "RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE". ALTHOUGH JORDAN HAS FOR SOME TIME INDICATED IT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO SOME FORM OF PLO PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA, CURRENT AGREEMENT TO SEPARATE PLO REPRESENTATION NOW RETURNS BALL TO PLO COURT, WHOSE LEADERSHIP IS ALREADY DIVIDED ON GENEVA ISSUE.
PICKERING

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